

REMARKS

Claims 1, 2, 5, 9, and 11-34 are pending.

Claims 1, 2, 5, 9, and 25-34 are allowed.

Claims 11-13 and 15 stand rejected under 35 USC §102(e) as being allegedly anticipated by RamachandraRao (US 2004/0072436).

Claims 11-12 stand rejected under 35 USC §103(a) as being allegedly unpatentable over Catabay et al. (US 6,537,896).

Claims 13 and 15-17 stand rejected under 35 USC §103 (a) as being allegedly unpatentable over Catabay, in view of Komatsu (US 6,451,436).

Claims 21-24 stand rejected under 35 USC §103(a) as being allegedly unpatentable over Catabay, in view of Yau et al. (US 6,054,379).

Changes in the Claims:

Claims 11, 19, 20 have been amended in this application to further particularly point out and distinctly claim subject matter regarded as the invention. No new matter has been added.

Claim 11 has been amended to further include the limitation recited in Claim 18.

Claims 19 and 20 have been amended to depend from Claim 11.

Claim 18 has been canceled.

Objection to the Specification:

The specification has been objected to because of the use of trademarks noted in the application. The application has been amended to capitalize the marks.

Rejection under 35 USC §102(e) – claims 11-13 and 15

Claims 11-13 and 15 stand rejected under 35 USC §102(e) as being allegedly anticipated by RamachandraRao (US 2004/0072436). This rejection is respectfully traversed.

A claim must be anticipated for a proper rejection under §102(a), (b), and (e). This requirement is satisfied “only if each and every element as set forth in the claim is found, either expressly or inherently described, in a single prior art reference”; see MPEP

§2131 and Verdegaa Bros. V. Union Oil, 814 F.2d 628, 2 USPQ2d 1051 (Fed. Cir. 1984). A rejection under §102(b) may be overcome by showing that the claims are patentably distinguishable from the prior art; see MPEP §706.02(b).

RamachandraRao describes exposing ILD surfaces damaged by plasma to a silane coupling agent to repair the damaged ILD surface. Paragraph 24 of RamachandraRao.

In contrast, the presently claimed invention claims a silane coupling reagent having an oligomeric structure. RamachandraRao does not teach or suggest a silane coupling reagent having an oligomeric structure.

The presently claimed invention is, accordingly, distinguishable over the cited reference. In the view of the foregoing, it is respectfully asserted that claims 11-13 and 15 are now in condition for allowance.

Rejection under 35 USC §103(a) – claims 11-12

Claims 11-12 stand rejected under 35 USC §103(a) as being allegedly unpatentable over Catabay et al. (US 6,537,896). This rejection is respectfully traversed.

These rejections are respectfully traversed. The arguments set forth above regarding Claim 11 are equally applicable here.

Applicant therefore submits that the rejection based the Catabay reference should be withdrawn. Thus, Applicant submits that claims 11-12 recite novel subject matter which distinguishes over any possible modification of Catabay.

Rejection under 35 USC §103(a) – claims 13 and 15-17

Claims 13 and 15-17 stand rejected under 35 USC §103(a) as being allegedly unpatentable over Catabay, in view of Komatsu (US 6,451,436). This rejection is respectfully traversed.

These rejections are respectfully traversed. The arguments set forth above regarding Claim 11 are equally applicable here.

Applicant therefore submits that the rejection based the Catabay and Komatsu references should be withdrawn. Thus, Applicant submits that claims 13 and 15-17 recite novel subject matter which distinguishes over any possible modification of Catabay.

Rejection under 35 USC §103(a) – claims 21-24

Claims 21-24 stand rejected under 35 USC §103(a) as being allegedly unpatentable over Catabay, in view of Yau et al. (US 6,054,379). This rejection is respectfully traversed.

These rejections are respectfully traversed. The arguments set forth above regarding Claim 11 are equally applicable here.

Applicant therefore submits that the rejection based the Catabay and Yau references should be withdrawn. Thus, Applicant submits that claims 21-24 recite novel subject matter which distinguishes over any possible modification of Catabay and Yau.

Conclusion

For all of the above reasons, applicants submit that the amended claims are now in proper form, and that the amended claims all define patentable subject matter over the prior art. Therefore, Applicants submit that this application is now in condition for allowance.

Request for allowance

It is believed that this Amendment places the above-identified patent application into condition for allowance. Early favorable consideration of this Amendment is earnestly solicited.

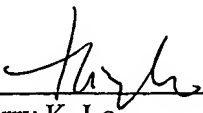
Invitation for Interview

If, in the opinion of the Examiner, an interview would expedite the prosecution of this application, the Examiner is invited to call the undersigned attorney at the number indicated below.

Respectfully submitted,

BLAKELY, SOKOLOFF, TAYLOR & ZAFMAN LLP

Date: 4/25/2006



Thierry K. Lo
Reg. No. 49,097

12400 Wilshire Blvd.
Seventh Floor
Los Angeles, CA 90025-1026
(408) 720-8300